The larger level of imports]trade deficit during the current year is on account of increase in bulk import such as fertilizers, and POL as also increase in imports of capital goods and manufactured intermediates which are needed to maintain essentia] investment, production and consumption in the economy.

Import Bills on ONGC

2691. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Wiil the Minisler of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL v I to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the in bills of Oil and NatUJ ion, Dehradun had substantially in during the last three year;;

(b) whether the visits of Oil and Natural Gas Commission officials abroad had also increased manifold during the . same period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of imports of various items made during the last three years ending 30thj June, 1985, the countries from which imported, the names of exporters and the' value thereof:

(d) what wa>: the total amount spent each year for the official tours along with the names of the countries visited by each official and the details of business done:, and

(e) what kind of r.ncill are proposed to be developed for reduc-itq the import bills of the ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Oil exploration in the Andamans offsboie

2692. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil India Limited has decided to undertake oil exploration in the Andamans offshore are. u-. H theraof including the cost of operation; (c) whether the Oil India Ltd. has been to import Oil Rigs and'or Drilling ships from abroad for that i

which are the countries which irwfrd to supply such equipment, aid on what terms; and iny technical experts' com mittee has ostituted for the evaluation of each of such offers'.'

PER OF STATE OF THE ISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND iLR.U GAS (SHRI NAWAL KiSHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

11'! Oil India Limited plans to drill three erplorator wells, estimated to c about Rs. 62 crores in the Andaman off- the VII Plan period. The • is expected to commence by April, 1986. and (d) The drilling is proposed to be done through a charter-hired drill ship. Offers have been received from firms in Japan, U.S.A.. U.K. Belgium and li for drilling on a day-rate **is. -**

(e) Yes, Sir.

Applications for manufacture of passenger cars

2693. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of applications for industrial licences and| or COB are pending with Government for the manufacture of passenger cars with and without foreign collaborations;

(b) if so. Is thereof along with the names of the applicants and their collaborators or otherwise, since when the